

Family History as told by Bethia Jane Justice Graham



Dated 1952.05.05

"This begins in November, 1880, the year my father and mother migrated to Cherokee County, Kansas. This is some of the things that came to me about my younger days. We lived in Perry County, Illinois, near a little village, Swanwick Station. There were three families of us that came in covered wagons. I think they called them Schooners. Now, it was quite a trip, and a lot of fun, too.

Father [*William Perry Justice*] had two wagons, the other ones one apiece. There was seven of us in the family, and I think father had four loose horses besides the two teams. We kids had to watch and keep them in line. Bill North's [*William North & Nancy Emiline Maxwell North*] had four boys, so there were six of them. The other (family) was my Uncle Joe Craig [*Joseph Pressely Craig & Matilda Elizabeth Justice Craig*]; was just the three of them. They always made camp at night. I can remember the awful lot of pies that friends and relatives brought in. I know we ate pie most of the way through, and Norths had a lot of dried beef. We had plenty to eat. Mother [*Diantha Emiline McNulty Justice*] would set bread in the morning and bake it at night in a Dutch oven by the campfire, and surely was good.

We crossed the Mississippi River on a ferry boat. We did not come through St. Louis, came through (Cape) Girardeau, a town below St. Louis, and crossed the Mississippi there. It was a mile and half across there. There was a large boat, but not quite finished, but could get the wagons and stock on all at one time. We came through Mansfield in Missouri where there had been a big tornado. We had very nice weather for as late as it was in the year. One night I can remember we camped before a big bluff for was a stormy night. We was two weeks on the road."

This is 6-1-1952

“(Just begun to write, had to go get some lunch ready, so will proceed). I can remember going to my Grandmother’s so much. There were four grown men at her place. Father’s just lived a short distance from her. I think was just 60 or 80 acres of land, and Father had his home on it, so was quite crowded. So at that time, Father and Mother had six children; was three of them boys, so he to get more land to make a living for all of us. We were all born in Perry county, but Emma and Al were born in Cherokee County, Kansas.

That first winter we all had the measles. We were living with Aunt Rene (Father’s sister) [*Serena Jane Justice Halie*] and Uncle Jay Hale [*Newton Jasper Haile*] until Father could get the place that he had bought. I forgot to mention where we landed, close to Cherokee at Nathan Maxwell’s, as they were here some time before we came. He was Nancy North’s [*Nancy Emiline Maxwell North*] brother, so the Norths got a place at Cherokee. The Cherokee Cemetery is on his place now. So Father came on down in this part of the county as Uncle Sol McNulty (mother’s brother) live on the place that John bought in later years, just adjoining the place Father bought when he came to the county.

As I said, we all had the measles that Winter, and they hunted rabbits. They were thick and we had lots of rabbits to eat. In this day and age of the world we would not eat them now. Father went to Oswego and bought hogs ready dressed. Was so cold and he could not get them cut up, only saw some off until they thawed out. – They lost the baby, Julia, with the measles. She is buried in Borland Cemetery. Pa thought he would have to go back to Illinois as John was so poorly after the measles.”

(dated) Sunday Morning 7-13-1952

“Another few lines – My Grandmother Justice [*Elizabeth Guy Justice*] had so many feather beds that we would sleep on one and have another on top of us in cold weather. We thought was fun to sleep at her place and used to be was always bisquits (sic) for breakfast, and they would put the bisquits (sic) in their coffee, loaded with sugar. My brother, Joe, [*Joseph Curtis Justice*] always had his bisquits and coffee for his breakfast. We used to have as much for breakfast as for our lunch. Well, we called in dinner in times past. I was eleven years old the fall we came to Kansas. There were no section lines, just a road across the prairie, not many settlers when we came. There was a family by the name of Craig [*maybe John W. Craig?*] that lived on the place that Father bought, so we could not get possession until Spring.

The house was two rooms and an attic, but we had beds up there. We girls slept there. The snow would sift through the roof in Winter, get up and snow all over the bed. Then Father built a side kitchen and a bedroom for the boys, and until Father dug a well, hauled water about two miles. I can remember what nice corn Father raised the first year. They got several cows. Mother raised a lot of chickens and would dress them, peddle (sic) them out at Scammon and Weir City. So after we were settled, (we) got along very well, but first Summer was kinda hard. We ate a lot of cornbread, but after the first year, did not have to eat so much. I like cornbread, but after a diet of it for some time, we, does not go down so good....

There was no movies in my younger days, but was parties and dances, and each Sunday School and Church, and we always went, and at night, too. Was a bunch of boys came down from Mt. Olive, and four or five of us girls always had beaux, and we always took the long way home, as they always had their horse to lead - no cars at that time - only buggies.

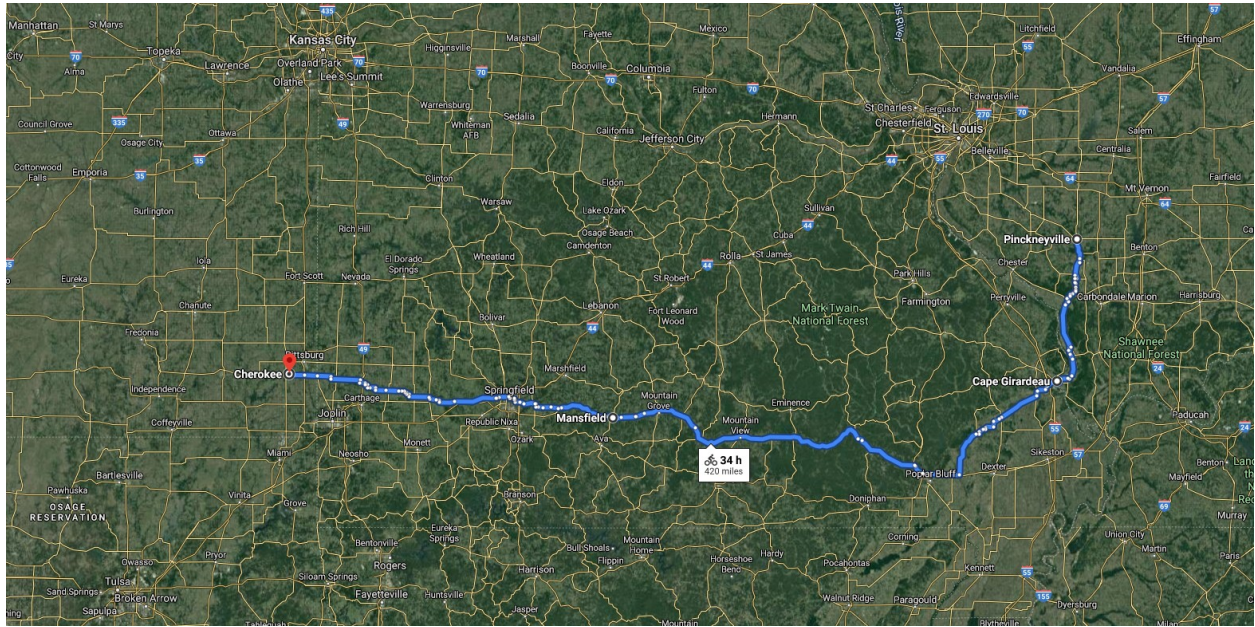
This is back history. The way we are related to the Guys. My grandmother Justice's name was Guy before she was married. Her father just lived across the road from my grandfather's place. They came from Kentucky, I think, and Nel (?) and Nick Guy's father was a brother of Grandmother's, so therefore, Father was a cousin of Nick Guy and we are second cousins and so on down the line. And we are the same relations to the Maxwells. Mother's mother was a Maxwell, and the old Nath(an) Maxwell was a cousin of Mother's; so we are second cousins of the Nath Maxwell family, and our children are third cousins. Some of them wanted me to write this down, as I was the only one that knew the straight of this, so near as I know this is it"

(dated) Feb 2-11-53

"Well, a few lines more. Well, I was married when I was 18. I don't advise anyone to get married so young, but in those days one was supposed to marry and get a family. Well, is all right when strike it rich, but I did not happen to strike it rich with my husband. He was a man that thought of the other fellow first before his family, so in after years I had to make a living for the family, until my oldest boy could help out, and my oldest fgirl. (It) was an uphill job, but I had all my children. I lived in West Mineral for some time. Well, I done washing, ironing, and house cleaning while I was there. Then I moved to Columbus and got a job cooking so I done that for 9 years, was at the Brooks Hotel..."

Unfortunately, she did not write anymore. Emma L. Strowig July 18, 1984

This is a cycling route from Google 420 Miles in 2 weeks is 30 miles a day!



Re-transcribed on 21 May 2001 by John E North, eliminating Mrs. Stowig's double spacing, with minor changes to punctuation, and using a different font, thereby reducing the original transcript for 4 pages to 2.

Additional remarks by John E North regarding the participants of this trek from Illinois to Kansas

() Bethia Jane (Justice) Graham was the 3rd of 9 children of Wm Perry Justice and Diantha Emaline "Emma" McNulty, where Emma was a cousin of the Maxwell women and Haile men named below.

() Julia Justice perhaps called Lela by close family members.

() Joe (Joseph P) Craig's wife was Elizabeth Matilda (dba Mattie) Justice. She died in the 1880's and at least one of her sons was raised for a time by Joseph B Justice and his wife Maria "Mona" (nee Maxwell)

Additional Couples who moved from IL to KS, among other include...

Children of James R Guy and his wife, Charity Ann Maxwell

... Nicholas Herman Guy and his wife Lavina Logan

... Nancy Guy and her husband George S Logan (George was 1st cousin of Lavina Logan Guy)

... James David Guy Sr. and his wife, Rebecca Jane Graham

Children of John Wesley Justice and his wife Elizabeth Guy

... Lavina A Justice (aunt Bethia Jane) and her husband, Thomas M Haile (cousin of the Maxwell women)

*** see note 1 in Appendix

... Serena Jane "Rene" Justice and her husband, Newton Jasper "Jay" Haile (Jay brother of Thomas)

Children of Malcom G Maxwell, Sr and his 1st wife Anna A Davis

... Nathan H Maxwell and his wife, Martha Jane Josephine Ozburn (Nathan full brother of Nancy North)

Appendix

by Jane Justice Templin

Item 1:

*** comment on John North's notes:

Lavinna Adeline Justice was married to Thomas Monroe **Haile**: son of Meshack Hale (1790 TN - 1857 AR) and Sophia Rees (1794 TN - 1869 TN)

(sp of Lavinna from Elizabeth Guy's note on "Ages" found in her bible)

Serena Jane Justice was married to Newton Jasper **Haile**: son of Meshack Haile (1774 TN - 1848 IL) & Elizabeth Maxwell (1790 TN - 1852 IL)

- I have not yet found a connection between the 2 men named Meshack Haile/Hale

Item 2: The families that were referenced in Bethia's story: the names in bold are mentioned in the story.

GRANDMOTHER JUSTICE -

- Grandmother - **Elizabeth Guy** (1818 KY - 1892 IL) married John Wesley Justice in Allen County KY, 1835
- Grandfather John Wesley Justice (1811 VA - 1879 IL) (died the year before Bethia's move to Kansas)
 1. Nancy H Justice (1836 KY - 1870 IL) m. Enoch Rushing
 2. Lavinna Adeline Justice (1838 KY - 1873 KS) m. Thomas Monroe Haile
 3. **Serena Jane Justice** (1841 IL - 1923 KS) married Jasper Newton Haile
 4. **William Perry Justice** (1844 IL - 1914 KS) m. **Diantha Emiline McNulty** (1845 IL - 1931 KS)
 5. John James Justice (1846 IL - after 1900 KS)
 6. Joseph B Justice (1848 IL - 1916 IL) m. Maria Jane Maxwell
 7. Matilda Elizabeth Justice (1853 IL - 1884 **IL**) m. Joseph P. Craig (1848 - 1881 **KS**)
 8. Ezekiel Justice (1858 IL - 1923 KS) m. Nancy Ann Hawthorne
 9. Alfred Johnson Justice (1863 IL - 1925 KS) m. Loretta Catherine Viers
- **FATHER:** William Perry Justice (1844 - 1914)
- **MOTHER:** Diantha Dorothy Emiline Emma McNulty (1845 - 1931)
 1. William A Justice (1865 - 1918)
 2. Lavina Elizabeth "Bettie" Justice (1868 IL - 1936 KS) married Robert J Borland (1867 IL - 1926 KS)
 3. **Bethia Jane Justice** (1869 IL - 1954 KS) married George Graham (1861 IL - 1900/1910 KS)
 4. John Wesley Justice (1870 IL - 1933 KS) married Minnie Elder Oglesby (1881 IL - 1927 KS tragedy)
 5. Joseph Curtis Justice (1874 MO - 1947 KS) married Laura Victoria Roberts (1877 TN - 1955 KS)
 6. Lela M Justice (1880 KS - 1881 KS)
 7. Emma L Justice (1881 KS - 1962 KS) married Burns Wilber Cross (1877 VA - 1949 KS)

8. Alfred Clarence Justice (1885 KS - 1934 KS) married Bertha Ellen McCoekle (1887 MO - ????)

UNCLE JOE:

- **Joseph Pressley Craig** (1848 IL - 1881 KS)
- Matilda Elizabeth Justice (1853 IL - 1884 IL)
 1. Joseph Alexander Craig (1876 IL - 1939 IL) married Fannie Thomas (1877 IL - 1963 IL)
 2. Sirena Craig (1878 IL - ????)

BILL NORTH:

- **William "Bill" North** (1835 IL - 1910 KS)
- Nancy Emiline Maxwell (1843 - 1901) m 1863
 1. John Jasper North (1864 IL - 1942 MO) m. Cora Lee Hill (1872 - 1953)
 2. Charles A North (1866 - 1889 KS)
 3. Malcom North (1868 -
 4. William H. North (1872 -
 5. Emma Mae North (Crosby) 1882 KS - 1962

NATHAN MAXWELL

- **Nathan Hendricks Maxwell** (1838 MO - 1897 KS)
- Martha Jane Osborne/Ozburn (1841 IL - 1922 KS)
 1. Emma Louise Maxwell (1869 - 1948) married Peter Proulx (1864 - 1925)
 2. Mary E "Lizzie" Maxwell (1872 IL - 1970 CA) married Edwin D. Faulkner (1871 MO - 1937 KS)
 3. Nathan Henry Maxwell (1879 - 1961) married Zaidee Worrell (1884 IL - 1961 KS)
 4. Malcom G. Maxwell (1881 KS - 1961 KS) married Lillian M Wax (1885 KS - 1969 KS)
 5. Charles Edgar Maxwell Sr. (1887 KS - 1969 KS) married Minnie Geneva Winter (1892 KS - 1988 KS)

BROTHER JOE

- **Joseph Curtis Justice** (1874 MO - 1947 KS)
- Laura Victoria Roberts (1878 TN - 1955 KS)
 1. Mildred Clair Justice (1902 KS- 1984 KS) married Jack Everett White (1902 - 2006)
 2. Pauline Mabel Justice (1905 KS - 1977 TX) married Cpl. Eugene McQueen (1899 - 1957)
 3. Helen L Justice (1908 KS - 2002 VA) married Willis James Moore (1905 LA - 1983)
 4. Lucille Ferne Justice (1910 KS - 2001) married George Graham (1902 MI - 1978 MI)
 - Probably not in the Graham family into which Betha Jane Justice (1869 IL - 1954 KS) who married George Graham (1861 - 1910 KS)
 - George Graham that married Lucille *seems* to be the son of Thomas and Belle Graham from Ontario, Canada & Michigan.
 5. Joseph Houston Justice (1916 KS - 2006 KS) married Louise Chapman (1920 MO - 2016 KS)

I still need to figure out who the Craig family was that sold the farm to WP Justice.... Maybe John W. Craig Junior? Wife: Sara Ann Children: Mattie, William A. Hiram, Allie S. Nancy M. Charles P. Samuel M. John Craig was ill with measles at the time of the 1880 census - and Sara Ann was a widow in 1885 State census - so perhaps the measles got John Craig that year too!

